

**Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

Claims 8-11 (Withdrawn).

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Withdrawn).

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claims 15-19 (Withdrawn).

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21. (Currently amended) A method for generating a hepatic cell culture comprising:  
co-culturing hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells derived from disaggregated liver  
tissue, in the presence of

(a) one or more growth factors that support the growth of hepatocytes comprising  
epidermal growth factor or hepatocyte growth factor and

(b) ~~a matrix wherein said matrix is a beads~~ coated with ~~at least one biologically active  
molecule~~ extracellular matrix protein that promotes cell adhesion under conditions sufficient to  
allow for the proliferation of said hepatocytes while retaining hepatic function of said  
hepatocytes.

Claim 22. (Canceled)

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein the ~~matrix is the  
form of beads~~ are polystyrene beads.

Claim 24. (Canceled)

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein the ~~matrix is coated  
with~~ extracellular matrix protein is type I collagen.

Claim 26.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein the growth factor is epidermal growth factor.

Claim 27.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein the growth factor is hepatocyte growth factor.

Claim 28.(Currently Amended) A population of hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells, derived using a method comprising:

co-culturing hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells, derived from disaggregated liver tissue, in the presence of

(a) one or more growth factors that support the growth of hepatocytes comprising epidermal growth factor or hepatocyte growth factor and

(b) ~~a matrix wherein said matrix is a~~ beads coated with ~~at least one biologically active molecule~~ extracellular matrix protein that promotes cell adhesion under conditions sufficient to allow for the proliferation of said hepatocytes while retaining hepatic function of said hepatocytes.

Claim 29. (Canceled)